



Brown Hare

Lepus europaeus

Quick facts

Order Lagomorpha

Conservation status

GB N/A - non-native

RE CE E V NT LC DD

England N/A

Scotland N/A

Wales N/A

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Stable*

Size 52 - 59 cm,
tail 8 - 12 cm

Weight 3 - 4 kg

Life span 3 - 4 years on average, occasionally much longer



Mammal SOCIETY

The brown hare was likely introduced in or before Roman times and is now widespread on low ground throughout Britain, the Isle of Man, and Orkney - although present in Northern Ireland, it is not widespread.

Habitat

Exposed grassland and arable land.

Behaviour

Generally solitary, may band into loose groups when feeding. Mostly feeds in the open at night and shelters during the day in a depression in long grass called a form. Does not dig burrows, instead relying on acute senses and the ability to run at speeds of 70 kph to evade predators.

Diet & Feeding

Tender wild grass shoots, cereals and some other agricultural crops, and herbs.

Reproduction

Breeds from March to July, rearing up to 3 litters of up to 4 leverets per year. Leverets are born fully furred with their eyes open - the mother feeds them once per day for the first four weeks of life. There is little other parental care.

Conservation & Threats

Little legal protection. Managed as game animals by farmers and landowners. Numbers have declined substantially in the 21st century. Modern intensive farming methods create less suitable habitat than traditional mixed crops. Hunting with dogs now outlawed in UK. May also be killed by farm machinery, pesticides, and poaching.

Range

